# Ball, Thurmond On State Censorship

Undersecretary of State Ball he squirmed terribly and I and Senator Thurmond, Dem-don't think he was forthright," perat of South Carolina, waged a duel of words today over the partment's position with regard State Department's censorship to Laos became so detailed that of speeches.

The occasion was a return engagement by Mr. Ball before a Special Armed Services subcommittee investigating charges that defense leaders have been "muzzled" in warning about the menace of communism.

With Senator Thurmond repeatedly voicing disagreement, Mr. Ball said the department's censors, with some exceptions, had "performed this delicate he was "seriously in doubt" in and sensitive responsibility with perception and judgment.

The Undersecretary specifically rejected any suggestion that the State Department has sought to discourage the use of the word "victory" and that this "reflects an ideological atlitude of the department."

the deletion of the word "victory" but by the explanation tions in speeches. given for it by the State Department in a report submitted touched on a proposed 1960 the to the subcommittee March 29.

aggression" had been substituted for the word "victory." word "victory" has "a militaristic and aggressive ring" and liver it. "also implies an 'all-or-nothing' approach leaving no room for accommodation.

In an opening statement Mr. Ball said the explanation was "inartistically worded." He later described it as "fatuous, foolish, inarticulate, and in-accurate," and said, "I don't see why it was put in there."

Senator Thurmond said such words as "victory" were deleted from many specches with the explanation that the use of such terms left no room for "accommodation.

## Sees "No-Win" Policy

In a long series of statements; prefacing his questions, the South Carolina Senator contended that such changes represented a "no-win" policy, saying that an "all or nothing"! approach as expressed in many of the speeches apparently was inconsistent with State Department policy.

Senator Thurmond carried the battle of words outside the

Senator Thurmond's questions involving the State De-Chairman Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, lifted a warning voice against discussing such matters in a public hearing.

""We don't help the cause of the United States by discussing what we're going to do in Laos. Senator Stennis said. He said he had heard discussions at the "highest possible level," including briefings by the Central Intelligence Agency, about the Laotian situation and said pursuing the matter except in a closed meeting.

#### Topic Called Sensitive

Mr. Ball referred to the situation in Laos as having "peculiar sensitivity" and said "only a minimum should be said in an open session."

The matter was passed over In one such case Mr. Ball Senator Thurmond pressing on found himself pained not by to other examples of the department's changes and dele-

The South Carolina Senator last speech by Gen. Thomas S. Power, commander of the Stra-In the speech in question the tegic Air Command, discussing phrase "defeat of Communist the destructiveness of a nuclear war. Mr. Ball said he felt the speech would have been The department's explanation "contrary to our interests" and to the subcommittee said the that it was "very desirable" that Gen. Power should not de-

> Thurmond Senator

the operch in which Department censors explained that the word "victory" was deleted because it had a "militaristic and aggressive ring," which left no realm for "accommodation."

### Meant for Security Forum

The speech was one that Brig. Gen. John W. White had proposed giving before the National Security Forum in Columbus, Ohio, on March 3, 1961.

Mr. Ball pointed out that the speech came at a time, when President Kennedy was preparing for his Vienua conference with Soviet Premier Khrushchev. This led Senator Thurmond to inquire what "accommodations" the President was willing to make and what Mr. Khrushchev "might do for us."

"He (the President) wouldn't go over there and talk in general terms," Senator Thurmond said.

While saying that it would be "extremely unwise" to discuss the specific details of the conference, Mr. Ball said the President was prepared to make "only such accommoda-tions" that would bring about "no diminution of our vital interests."

He said that while there are many areas of sharp conflict. there are some in which there charbe an accommodation of the traceests of this country and the Soviet Union, Austria was cited as one example.

#### Exact Language Read

In discussing the White speech, Mr. Ball read into the record the exact language of the explanatory memorandum which he said was submitted by the State Department reviewer, to the Defense Department at the time the change of language was recommended. The memorandum · read:

"Because this speech concerns; predominantly the cold war, we have made several incidental changes of wording to reflect the fact that the cold war is instigated and promoted by aggressive international munism.

"We consider that it is necessary we insure this impression throughout because (1) the administration presently does not wish to give occasion for interpretation by foreign opinion that the United States is stimulating the cold war from its side and, thus, aggravating rather than trying to reduce international tensions, and

"(2) because sentences could be quoted out of context in support of the Soviet propaganda claim that elements of the United States military in particular are continuing to whip up the cold war fever.

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cess, commenting on Mr. Balls testimony he said: "I this :